



BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1923.

JAMES M. MacLACHLAN, M.B., C.M.

Medical Officer of Health.

T. Robson, Printer, Percy Street, Blyth.



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BOROUGH OF BLYTH.

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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Councillor G. EMMERSON, Vice-Chairman.

Alderman A. A. ASKWITH, J.P., Mayor.

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STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health Dr. J. M. MacLACHLAN, M.B.

Sanitary Inspector

Mr. J. FAWCETT.

Health Visitors

Miss R. FINLAY.

Miss A. HOGARTH.

Hospital (Matron)

Miss J. WHITE.

Office of Health Department WELLINGTON HOUSE, Blyth



Borough of Blyth.

Health Department,

WELLINGTON HOUSE,
BLYTH.

January, 1924.

To Alderman Neale (Chairman), and Members of the
Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough for 1923, and in so doing to bring to your notice, Circular No. 451 from the Ministry of Health, which modifies the previous instructions as to the information to be afforded and generally simplifies the Report.

NATURAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BOROUGH.

Population :—At the census in 1921 our population was 31,833, in 1922 it was returned as 32,630, for 1923 the Registrar General estimates our population at 32,950, and on this estimate all the statistical records will be calculated.

Industries of the Borough.—As no new industry has been commenced during the year, Coal-mining, Shipbuilding and Repairing continue to be the main occupations for the male population. The former trade has been working at high pressure throughout the year, all the collieries in the Borough having been fully employed, but unfortunately the same could not be said of the latter, as the unfortunate shipbuilding dispute which continued for seven and a half months was the cause of a great deal of unemployment, fortunately towards the end of the year the dispute was amicably settled, and one hopes that the coming year will see a great revival in the shipbuilding and shiprepairing trade in the Borough.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Despite the economic conditions resulting from the lack of employment, the health of the Borough has been most satisfactory during the year and as will be seen from the statistical records, the Death Rate is the lowest for the past ten years.

There has been no serious epidemic during the year, although there was an outbreak of Measles in October, which invaded all the wards of the Borough.

With the prevalence of Small Pox in different parts of the country and especially in neighbouring boroughs, your Council made Chicken Pox a notifiable disease as from 1st November, and with the Guardians offering free vaccination to all the inhabitants, many took advantage of the offer and had themselves vaccinated or revaccinated. So far, your Borough has escaped a visitation from Small Pox.

Welfare Centre.

The attendance at the Centre shows a gratifying increase during the year as compared with 1922, and it is now evident that mothers appreciate the advice and instructions given by the Health Visitors. Miss Colles, an Inspector from the Ministry of Health, visited the Centre in November and expressed herself well satisfied with the work carried on and the accommodation provided.

Sanitary Conveniences.

The number of conversions from the privy ashpit type to that of the water carriage system show a big increase as compared with previous years. During 1923, 162 conversions have been effected.

Scavenging and Refuse Disposal.

This work, as in former years, is carried out by your own staff under the supervision of Mr. Fawcett, Sanitary Inspector. Part of the collected material is deposited in agricultural land and ploughed in, and part in suitable tips approved by the Council, but as these are becoming scarcer, your Council will, in the near future, have to adopt some other method of disposing of the town's refuse. The conveyance of the refuse to the tips has always been done by horse traction, but in the latter weeks of the year, motor traction was being tried as well, with a view to which method was more efficient and economical.



Water Supply.

As in former years, this is of good quality and sufficient for the needs of the population. The main source of supply is from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, in addition to that from Hepscott and Healey Woods. Samples of the two latter were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis during the year and both reports prove the water to be of good quality.

The consumption of water from the various sources for the year is :—

<u>Source of supply</u>		<u>Total Gallons</u>
Hepscott	...	58,709,110
Healey Wood	...	3,654,321
Newcastle and Gateshead	...	227,047,000
	Total	289,410,431

Drainage and Sewerage.

The system of drainage in the Borough may be considered as satisfactory, although in certain parts of the town flooding occasionally happens, due, generally to an abnormal high tide, accompanied by a strong east wind.

Sanitary Inspection of the Borough.

In compliance with the general order of the Ministry of Health, your Inspector in addition to his multifarious duties, has endeavoured by inspection to keep himself informed in respect of any nuisances within the Borough, and his report gives the nature of nuisances dealt with.

The following nuisances are still common in the Borough :—

- (1) Dilapidated and insufficient sanitary conveniences
- (2) Unsatisfactory water supply.
- (3) Structural defects in houses.

The Theatre and Cinemas.

These have been regularly inspected.

The Cowsheds,—Dairies—Common Lodging Houses,—Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses.

These have all during the year been regularly inspected and the usual lime-washing etc. has been carried out at intervals. As the accommodation at the slaughterhouses is limited and barely sufficient for the needs of those using them, your Council should consider the erection of a Public Abattoir.

Food and Drug Act.

No action was necessary during the year under this Act.

Isolation Hospital.

I can only re-iterate what I have already referred to in previous reports, the need of an up-to-date hospital for the treatment of infectious diseases.

Roads and Streets.

The main thoroughfares within the Borough have all been remade during the past year, while the majority of the side streets have been repaired and are in a satisfactory condition. Now that the streets have been so much improved, it behoves the Council to see that they are kept in a clean condition and free from refuse, in order to do so, it is necessary that the cleansing staff should be sufficient in numbers, and supplied with all the necessary equipment and modern apparatus for the efficient cleansing of the streets, if the surfaces are to be kept, as they should be, in a clean and sanitary condition.

Housing Accommodation.

In common with other municipalities all over the country, the question of the provision of more houses in the Borough is of paramount importance to the Council. As, notwithstanding the addition of 503 houses provided by the completion of the Council's Housing Scheme, the shortage of houses within the Borough is still very acute. From statistics supplied by the estate agent, it will be noted, that there are 802 applicants for houses still on your "waiting list." Of that number there are :—

(1) 659 families living in furnished rooms—sublet rooms, and in with their parents.

(2) 143 householders.

It is obvious, therefore, that overcrowding exists to a great extent, and from the existing sanitary conditions under these circumstances, it is impossible for the people in the houses to maintain a good standard of health.

Your Council is well aware of the fact, that there are numbers of houses in the Borough in such a bad state of repair and delapidation as to be unfit for habitation, but it is useless, at present, for your officials to condemn these houses and recommend their closure, owing to the lack of alternative accommodation for their inhabitants.

This was evidenced by the fact, that during the year, 16 houses in Sproat Street, 9 in Davison Street, 19 in Bowes Street and the " Link " were all reported to be in such a bad state of repair and delapidation, as to be unfit for habitation, but your Council took no further action on the question.

The Government are evidently determined to solve the House Shortage, and one would hope that as a result of the enquiry set up by the Ministry of Health, a scheme for the provision of more houses will be evolved.

The Colliery Districts.

At the Isabella Colliery, much progress has been made with the remodelling of the yards for the dwelling-houses, the conversion of the open privy ashpits into the water carriage system, and the remaking of the streets in the village. When all these alterations are completed, the Isabella Colliery will be one of the most up-to-date pit villages from a sanitary point of view in the county, and the Cowpen Coal Company are to be commended in their endeavour to provide housing accommodation suitable in every respect for the needs of their employees.

At Bebside.

The reconstruction of the sanitary conveniences has made very little progress during the year, only 6 conversions having been affected, while little or no attempt has been made to improve the back streets in the village.

At New Delaval.

A commencement has been made there with the Company's reconstruction scheme, but progress has been slow.

APPENDIX.

I General Statistics.

Area (acres)	4509 acres.
Population (1923)	32950
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ...	6846
Number of families or separate occupiers, (1921) approximately	7346
Rateable Value	£157216 10/-.
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£575.

II Vital Statistics.

Extracts from vital statistics for the year.

		Total	M.	F.	
Births {	Legitimate ...	833	412	421	} Birth rate 26·25.
	Illegitimate ...	32	9	23	
Deaths	...	420			Death rate 12·7.
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth		{ from Sepsis ...		0	
		{ „ other causes		1	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births.					
Legitimate ...		87	Illegitimate ...	5.	Total 92
Deaths from	Measles (all ages) ...				21
„	Whooping Cough (all ages) ...				7
„	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...				8

BIRTHS.

During the year, the total number of births (including transfers) registered for the Borough was 865 as against 784 in 1922, an increase of 81 births. Of the number registered, 32 were illegitimate.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	412	421	833
Illegitimate	9	23	32
Total	121	444	865

This is equivalent to a Birth Rate of 26·25 per 1000 population as against 24 per 1000 population in 1922. The illegitimate births number 32, equivalent to a birth rate of 36·8 per 1000 births.

Comparing this figure with the Registrar's Table X, it shows the birth rate for the Borough to be well above the average for England and Wales, and the towns with which the Borough is classified.

Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	19·7
„ 105 Large Towns	...	...	20·4
„ 155 Smaller Towns (20-5000 pop.)			19·8
„ London	...	...	20·2
„ Blyth	...	...	26·25

DEATHS

During the year, the number of deaths registered in the Borough was 379 ; including outward and inward transfers, the total number of deaths belonging to the Borough for 1923 is 420, as against 496 in 1922, a decrease of 76.

This is equivalent to a death rate of 12·7 per 1000 population as against a death rate of 15·2 in 1922.

This figure compares favourably with the rates shown in the Registrar's Table X.

Death Rates per 1000 population for :—

England and Wales	...	...	...	11·6
London	...	...	..	11·2
105 Large Towns	...	..	...	11·6
155 Smaller Towns (20-50000 pop.)			...	10·6
Blyth ...	...	...	...	12·7

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

During the year, 87 children under one year died, and with 5 transfers, the Registrar General's returns show that 92 children were registered as belonging to the Borough.

This is equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 106·3 per 1000 births, an increase of 1·8 over the previous year.

Comparing this rate with Table X of the Registrar's General's Return, it shows Blyth to be 37·7 in excess of the average of the 155 towns with which it is classified.

It is noteworthy, however, that 44 of the deaths are due to Premature Birth, Congenital Malformations, Marasmus and Infantile Debility (excluding these, the Infantile Mortality Rate would be 55·4 per 1000 births.)

For England and Wales	...	69
„ 105 Large Towns	... ..	72
„ 155 Smaller Towns (20-50000)	...	69
„ Blyth	... ..	106·3

Table of Infantile Mortality for 1923. Monthly incidence. Ages of children. Causation of Death.

	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1-yr
January	1	...	1	1	3	2	1	...	1	7
February	2	...	...	...	2	3	2	...	...	7
March	4	1	...	...	5	3	...	...	2	10
April	3	...	...	...	3	3	1	1	...	8
May	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	3
June	2	...	...	...	2	2	...	1	1	6
July	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2	5
August	1	2	1	...	4	4	...	2	...	10
September	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	3	...	7
October	4	1	2	...	7	3	1	...	...	11
November	3	1	...	...	4	...	1	1	1	7
December	4	...	...	...	4	1	...	4	2	11
Totals	27	5	4	2	38	24	8	13	9	92

Premature Birth	...	23
Congenital Malformation	...	7
Marasmus	...	8
Infantile Debility	...	6
Malnutrition	...	3
Infantile Diarrhœa	...	1
Overlying	...	1
Gastric Catarrh	...	4
Convulsions	...	5
Rickets	...	1
Bronchitis	...	8
Pneumonia	...	12
Measles	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	5
Congenital Heart Disease	...	1
Meningitis	...	2

Total 92

Table III—Notifiable Diseases during the year 1923.

Disease				Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	...			161	37	1
Diphtheria	....			25	4	2
Erysipelas	...			26	1	
Pneumonia	...			136	3	40
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...			17		
Enteric Fever	....			2	2	
Malaria	....			4	4	
Chickenpox	....			14		
Tuberculosis:—	....				
Pulmonary	{	M	45			8
		F	32	77		19
Non-Pulmonary	{	M	10			4
		F	10	20		5
Totals				482	51	79

Tuberculosis:—

	M	F	Total
Admitted to Sanatoria for Treatment	15	9	24
Discharged from Sanatoria	10	6	16

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year is much the same as in the previous year. In 1923 the number was 482 (of which 161 were Scarlet Fever) as against 451 (125 Scarlet Fever) in 1922.

It will be seen from the tables that of what are termed Infectious Diseases—**Scarlet Fever** has been the most prevalent. It has existed in the area throughout the year. The disease has been of a mild type and the very mildness of the attack has in many instances deceived the parents in not sending for medical advice at the early stage, with the result that the patient has been allowed to go about and mix with other children and so spread the infection: this, combined with the house to house visitation so common in certain districts of the Borough and a tendency not to strictly adhere to the total quarantining of the patient, are in my opinion, the main factors of the disease lingering so long in the area. 36 cases were admitted to hospital for treatment. Of the total number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified 172 patients were of school age. They are as follows:—

	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital. or Institutions
Scarlet Fever	101	23
Diphtheria	14	2
Pneumonia	26	...
Chicken Pox	6	...
Enteric Fever	2	2
Erysipelas	4	1
Tuberculosis (pul)	13	6
(0·0)	6	2
	172	36

In regard to other Infectious Diseases:—

Diphtheria—

Has increased slightly. Notifications this year being 25 compared with 20 last year. Of these 8 were below 5 years of age, 14 were of school age, and 3 were over 20 years of age. There were 2 deaths from the disease. Antitoxin Serum was supplied to all the medical practitioners on request. 4 cases were removed to Hospital.

Erysipelas.—

26 cases were reported as against 18 in 1922. 1 patient was treated in Hospital.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—

Notifications received were 17 as against 23 in 1922. (See Table IV.)

Enteric Fever.—

Notifications this year are 2 compared with 7 last year. Both cases were admitted to hospital and made a good recovery.

Malaria.—

4 Port Sanitary cases.

Chicken Pox.—

In view of the similarity of this disease with the present outbreak of Small Pox in different parts of the country, your Council made the disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. This became operable on the 1st of November. In the latter two months of the year, 14 cases of Chicken Pox were notified, all of which were personally investigated.

Pneumonia.—

Notifications this year are 136 as against 152 in 1922. 3 patients were admitted to Hospital. The Registrar's Returns show that there were 40 deaths from the disease. This is equivalent to a death rate of 1.1 per 1000 population, and a case Mortality of 29.4 %.

Tuberculosis.—Pulmonary.—

Notifications were 77 in number with 27 deaths.

	<u>1923.</u>	<u>1922.</u>
No. of cases	77	61
„ Deaths	27	39
Death Rate		
per 1000 pop.	·8	1.2
Case mortality	24.6 %	63.9

Non-Pulmonary.—There are also 20 notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis with 9 deaths, equivalent to a death rate of .02 per 1000 population, and a case mortality of 45 %.

During the year, 24 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted to Sanatorium for treatment, and 16 were discharged as cured.

Small Pox.—

Although we are still experiencing immunity from a visitation by this disease, it is prevalent in many parts of the country and in adjacent areas,—it behoves us to be prepared to deal with an epidemic should it occur. The only absolute protection is vaccination and re-vaccination and as a precautionary method the Tynemouth Guardians in October offered free vaccination to the inhabitants of the borough many of whom took advantage and availed themselves of the opportunity to be done.

I would point out to your Council, that there is no hospital accommodation for the treatment of the disease within the precincts of the borough, the only accommodation available being an interchangeable arrangement the Bedlingtonshire U.D. Council at their Hospital. In this respect, might I suggest to your Council, as the facilities for the treatment of Small Pox among neighbouring authorities is practically nil and any who have hospital accommodation is inadequate and out of date, the advisability of conferring with them as to the provision of a hospital, in a central position, properly equipped, for the treatment of the disease, the expense to be equally borne by the different authorities.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Measles—

Measles was very prevalent all over the area in the latter months of the year, in fact statistics show that the disease, existed all over the country. It being a non-notifiable disease, I was unable to ascertain the number of cases, but that it was of a rather severe type, is evidenced by the fact that with its pneumatic complications, the disease was responsible for 19 deaths,

Whooping Cough.—

A large number of children suffered from this disease throughout the year, 7 children dying from it.

Influenza—

Influenza was conspicuous by its absence, but towards the end of December there were signs that we might have a visitation.

Methods of Disinfection.—

In the absence of a Steam Disinfector, an (apparatus your Council requires), the disinfection of clothing and bedding is very unsatisfactory.

The disinfectants used are “ Sulphume ” and “ Formalin.”

Age Incidence of Infectious Diseases for 1923.

	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	1	2	9	13	11	60	42	17	5	1	...	...	161
Pneumonia	2	24	18	14	12	20	6	5	17	4	8	6	136
Diphtheria	...	...	1	4	3	10	4	...	3	...	...	..	25
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ophthalmia	17	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	17
Chicken Pox	3	...	2	2	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	14
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	4
Erysipelas	...	1	..	..	...	2	2	1	5	3	10	2	26
Totals	23	27	30	33	27	97	57	23	33	9	18	8	385

Deaths from Infectious Disease (Age Groups) for 1922-23.

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 over	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	8	9	2	1	1	...	1	1	2	1	5	9	40
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Totals	8	9	3	2	1	...	2	1	2	1	5	9	43

Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1923.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Scarlet Fever.	34	22	10	14	10	10	8	9	3	18	11	12	161
Enteric Fever.	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas.	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	1	...	3	26
Pneumonia.	11	10	17	13	10	16	3	4	3	14	18	17	136
Diphtheria.	2	8	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	25
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum.	2	2	1	...	2		1	2	1	4	1	1	17
Tuberculosis.	7	10	12	6	6	10	7	8	7	9	7	8	97
Malaria.	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	4
Chicken Pox.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	5	14
Totals.	59	54	45	40	32	41	24	28	17	47	47	48	482

Table of Infectious Diseases and their Ward Distribution as compared with 1922.

Wards.	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Erysipelas.		Pneumonia.		Ophthalmia Neonator'm.		Enteric Fever.		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Tuberculosis Other Org'ns		Malaria		Chicken Pox	
	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922	1923	1922
Bebside	43	48	—	3	3	1	7	21	—	—	1	2	5	11	2	4	—	—	1	—
Newsham	26	12	5	—	3	1	10	19	3	6	—	—	4	2	4	9	—	—	—	—
New Delaval	16	11	—	1	4	4	6	10	3	6	—	—	5	5	3	8	—	—	—	—
Croft	10	18	4	6	3	5	43	36	5	4	1	1	20	17	3	7	—	—	—	2
Waterloo	13	8	3	2	2	4	29	33	2	5	—	—	15	10	3	3	—	1	—	3
Plessey	27	13	5	5	8	4	25	18	2	1	—	4	18	8	2	6	—	1	—	3
Ridley	26	14	7	3	3	1	16	16	2	1	—	—	10	8	3	—	—	1	—	5
Port Sanitary	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—
Totals.	161	124	25	20	26	20	136	153	17	23	2	7	77	61	20	37	4	6	14	—

“N.B. Chicken-Pox notified only from November 1st, 1923.”

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

This term includes deaths from the following diseases : Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria and Croup, Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years), Measles and Whooping Cough.

As compared with 1922 the figures are :—

Disease :—			No. of Deaths.	
			1923.	1922.
Small Pox	...	...	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	2	1
Enteritis (Diarrhoea)	...	...	8	7
Measles	...	...	21	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	7	4
Totals ...			39	14

This is equal to a Death Rate of 1.1 per 1000 population as against 4 per 1000 population in 1922.

TABLE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITALS.
1923.

Factory Point Hospital.

Matron: Miss J. White.

	Admitted	Discharged.	Under Treatment 31st Dec.
	17 Scarlet Fever 1 Diphtheria	14 Scarlet Fever 1 Diphtheria	3 Scarlet Fever
Total.	18	15	3

Date of Admission	Name.	Age.	Address.	Disease.	Result	Date of Discharge.
1923						
Jan. 5	W. J. Adamson	14	Wellesley School, Blyth	Scarlet Fever	Good	Feb. 19
" 26	J. Connon	9	45 Marlow Street, "	"	"	Mar 2
Feb 7	G. Thoburn	7	92 Stanley Street, "	Diphtheria	"	" 14
" 27	J. Kennedy	5	28 Park Road "	Scarlet Fever	"	April 11
May 1	M. Henderson	9	1 Badger St. Cowp'n C.	"	"	June 13
" 15	J. Straker	9	63 Sidney Street, Blyth	"	"	" 23
June 1	J. Ramshaw	5	43 No. Row, Bebside	"	"	July 14
" 6	J. Dixon	9	43 William St., Blyth	"	"	" 14
Aug. 29	Is. Laird	10	6 Rowley St., "	"	"	Oct. 3
Sept. 20	A. Satley	8	38 Front Row, Bebside	"	"	" 27
Oct. 1	Ella Haley	3	25 Taylor St., Cowpen	"	"	Nov. 10
" 2	W. Wright	5	8 John Street, "	"	"	" 10
" 5	M. Haley	2	23 Beecher St., "	"	"	" 10
Nov. 6	M. Mills	8	1½ Tweedy St., "	"	"	Dec. 15
" 21	M. Shields	10	18 Oldgate, Bebs. Fur'ce	"	"	" 29
Dec. 29	A. E. Reid	17	12 No. Row, N. Delaval	"	"	
" 29	Wm. Reid	14	" "	"	"	
" 29	Alex. Reid	8	" "	"	"	

Port Sanitary Hospital.

Matron—Miss B. Dingwall.

Admitted.	Discharged.	Under treatment 31st Dec
Scarlet Fever . . . 21	Scarlet Fever . . . 28	Nil
Diphtheria . . . 4	Diphtheria . . . 4	
Erysipelas . . . 1	Erysipelas . . . 1	
Pneumonia . . . 3	Pneumonia . . . 3	
Enteric Fever . . . 2	Enteric Fever . . . 5	
Enteric (?) Meningitis 1	Parotitis . . . 1	
Parotitis . . . 1	Malaria . . . 3	
Malaria . . . 3	Malaria (Endocarditis) 1	
Malaria (?) Endocarditis 1	Pneumonia (fatal) . . 1	
	Enteric (Meningitis) (fatal) . . 1	
—	—	
37	48	

Date of Admission.	Names.	By whom sent	Disease.	Date of Discharge.
Feb. 3	J. Davison	Corp. of Blyth	Diphtheria	Feb 28
" 6	T Bonner	do.	Erysipelas	" 24
" 8	C. Lillie	do.	Scarlet Fever	Mar. 22
" 17	M. Routledge	do.	Diphtheria	" 13
" 20	J. Duffy		Pneumonia	" 13
" 21	P. Petterson	R B P.S.A.	Diphtheria	" 2
Mar. 6	E. Graham	Corp. of Blyth	Enteric Fever	April 21
" 7	M. Routledge	do.	Scarlet Fever	" 7
" 21	G. Short	do.	Pneumonia	" 21
April 14	N. Hoglund	R.B.P.S.A.	Malaria	" 24
May 11	J. Rostrick	do.	Parotitis	June 5
" 24	C. Nicholson	Corp. of Blyth	Scarlet Fever	July 3
June 4	E. Gates	do.	Enteric Fever	" 3
" 15	H. Haggerty	do.	Scarlet Fever	" 21
" 15	A. Haggerty	do.	do.	" 21
" 18	N. Lindrup	R.B.P.S.A.	Malaria	" 16
July 3	E. Eniapsee	do.	do.	" 27
" 16	S. Cole	Corp. of Blyth	Scarlet Fever	Aug. 25
" 16	C. Cole	do.	do.	" 25
" 20	E. Smith	do.	do.	" 25
" 20	H. Smith	do.	do.	" 25
Aug. 1	S. Kancoo	R.B.P.S.A.	Malaria(?) Endocarditis	Sept. 13
" 1	M. Charlton	Corp of Blyth	Scarlet Fever	" 6
" 11	A. Straughan	do.	Enteric (?) Meningitis	Aug. 19
" 17	K. Weatherburn	do.	Scarlet Fever	Sept. 22
Sept. 28	E. Bulford	do.	Diphtheria	Oct. 23
Oct. 15	J. Forsyth	do.	Scarlet Fever	Nov. 24
" 16	M. Perry	do.	Pneumonia	Oct. 24
" 16	T. Dawson	do.	Scarlet Fever	Nov. 24
" 17	J. Dawson	do.	do.	" 24
" 19	A. Dawson	do.	do.	" 24
" 26	E. McKeay	do.	do.	" 29

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmon'ry	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	....	....	....	....	...	1	1
1	1	3	3	....	....	2	...	1
5	5	6	2	2	1	2	...	1
10	3	1	2	2	1	...	1	....
15	1	2	....	3	...	....	...	—
20	3	4	...	2	....	2	...	1
25	7	12	1	1	1	8	....	1
35	14	3	2	....	1	2	1	...
45	4	1	....	....	1	2	....	...
55	5	...	....	...	3	1	1	...
65 & upwards	2	....	....	....	...	...	....	...
Totals	45	32	10	10	8	19	4	5

Table IV.

	Cases			Vision unimp'rd	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At home	at hosp't'l				
Ophthalmia Neonator'm	17	16	1	16	1	....	....

Comparison of Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for 1923-1922

	1923	1922	Incr'se	Decr'se
Birth Rate	26.25	24	2.25	
Death Rate	12.7	15.2		2.5
Zymotic Death Rate	1.1	.4	.7	
Respiratory Death Rate	1.1	1.8		.7
Tuberculosis (pulmonary D.R.)	.8	1.2		.4
(other organs D.R.)	.02	.5		.48
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 births)	106.3	104.5	1.8	

V.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

Professional Nursing in the Home :—

(a). General—As in previous years, your area is well provided for in regard to the home nursing of General and and Maternity cases, viz. :—

1. The Blyth Nursing Association (3 nurses),
2. The Bebside „ „ (1 nurse).
3. The Newsham and New Delaval Nursing Association (1 nurse).

(b) No provision is made for the home nursing of infectious cases.

These associations work under the jurisdiction of the Northumberland County Nursing Association.

The work done by the Nurses of the various Associations are :—

	Blyth	Pebside.	Newsham & New Delaval.
Number of Maternity cases attended	335	31	104
„ Surgical „	77	72	55
„ Medical „	38	39	24
Total Number of Visits made	6656	3031	2701

The various associations depend to a great extent on voluntary and workmen's contributions for their financial support, but owing to the economic conditions existing, especially in the Blyth area during the past year, the subscriptions have fallen short of previous years. Would the Council not consider the advisability of taking over these associations, and making them a branch of the Corporation services ?

(c). There are no midwives practising in your area,

(d). **Hospitals.**

For Infectious diseases, the facilities are similar to former years, viz. :—

The Factory Point and the Port Sanitary Hospitals, in which there are accommodation for 30 patients, but as the tenancy of the former is only yearly, your Council should consider the advisability of building a new up-to-date hospital for infectious diseases on a permanent site. In addition to these, your Council has an interchangeable arrangement with the Bedlingtonshire U.D. Council, which also holds good with regard to cases of Small Pox, and in this respect, I would suggest to your Council the advisability of holding a conference with neighbouring Councils, with a view to consider the erection of a Small Pox Hospital in a central position which would be beneficial to all concerned.

(e). **Tuberculosis.**

Your Council has no hospital accommodation for patients suffering from this disease. Cases are sent to Woolley and Stannington Sanatorias (Northumberland County Council).

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is held weekly at Blyth.

(f) **No Hospital accommodation** is provided in your area for Maternity cases, but the Knight Memorial Hospital (which is kept up by voluntary subscriptions) is open for the admission of surgical and medical cases.

(g) **No Institutional provision** is made for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children in the district.

(h) **Ambulance facilities :—**For non-infectious diseases and accidents, your Council have provided a Motor Ambulance while the Coal Companies have a similar arrangement for their employees. For Infectious Diseases, the Port Sanitary Authority's Ambulance is utilised by your Council when necessary.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The undermentioned clinics are provided in Blyth for Consultation and Treatment of Ailments.

Name.	Address.	Nature of Accommodation.	By whom provided.
School Clinic.	Wellington House.	Waiting, Dressing, and Consulting Rooms.	Borough of Blyth.
Child Welfare Centre.	Wellington House.	Waiting and Consulting Rooms.	Borough of Blyth.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.	Trotter Street.	Waiting and Consulting Rooms.	Northumberland County Council
Veneral Dispensary.	Nil.		
Day Nurseries	Nil.		

VI. LABORATORY WORK.

The bacteriological examination of specimens in aid of the diagnosis of disease is carried out by arrangement with the Northumberland County Council, at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the following table shows to what extent this arrangement has been utilised.

Antitoxin Serum is supplied to practitioners on request 54
Bulbs of 2000 units each, or 108,000 units in all, were issued during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS & RESULTS FOR 1923.

Sent in by	Diphtheria			Tubercle			Enteric Fever.			Total Specimens examined.		
	Pos	Neg.	Total	Pos	Neg	Total	Pos	Neg	Total	Pos.	Neg	Total
Dr. Moore, County Tuber. Officer.				24	41	65				24	41	65
Other Medical Practitioners.	9	8	17	5	12	17	1	4	5	15	24	39
Totals	9	8	17	29	53	82	1	4	5	39	65	104
No. of Cases notified.			24			93			2			

ADOPTED ACTS IN OPERATION IN THE BOROUGH.

1. The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
2. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts ii, iii, iv, and v.
3. The Private Streets Works Act, 1892.
4. The Public Libraries Acts, 1892-1901.
5. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Parts ii and iii. Sections 52 to 60 both inclusive, 62 to 66 both inclusive, and 68 comprised in Parts iv, v, vi, and x.

BYE LAWS IN FORCE IN THE BOROUGH.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Cleansing of footways and pavements. 2. For the prevention of nuisances arising from snow, filth, ashes and rubbish, and for the prevention of the keeping of animals on any premises so as to injurious to health. 3. Common Lodging Houses 4. Slaughter Houses. 5. Public Bathing. 6. The Pleasure Ground. 7. Houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family. 8. The Regulation of Offensive Trades. 9. New Streets and Buildings, 1924. 10. Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures used for human habitation—allowed by the L.G.B. on the 11th March, 1913. 11. Street Trading, 1922. 12. Pleasure Grounds, 1923 13. Omnibuses, 1923. 14. Good Rule and Government, 1923. | } | <p>As allowed by the Local
Government Board on
the 15th day of Feb.
1909.</p> |
|--|---|---|

HOUSING.

Number of New Houses erected during the year.

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	228
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Act, 1919 or 1923.					
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	220
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	8
I. Unfit Dwelling Houses.					
Inspection :—(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects. (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	297
2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	...	...	...	...	59
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	49
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subheading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	...	...	...	248
II. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal notices.					
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	76
III. Action under Statutory Powers.					
A Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., October, 1919					
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	10
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—					
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.					
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	162
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied					
(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	139
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	—
C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act 1909.					
1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders	...	...	...	...	49
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	...	—
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	—
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made	...	...	...	...	—
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders	...	...	...	...	—

MAYORESS'S CHRISTMAS TREAT FUND.

During the Christmas holidays, 975 children and 390 adults were entertained to a sumptuous dinner provided by the above fund, under the supervision of the Mayoress (Mrs. Askwith) and a committee of the Councillors' wives. Morpeth Road, Crofton and Princess Louise Road Schools were utilized for the occasion. Additional to the dinner, each child was given a sixpence and a plentiful supply of fruit and sweets, the children from the outlying districts were conveyed free of charge to the schools, through the generosity of the United Bus Co. In addition, 300 lbs. of meat, 377 5/- parcels of provisions were distributed to the poorer people in the Borough. The meat and 65 of the parcels being generously given to the Fund by the local tradesmen. During the course of the afternoon, the Mayor and Mayoress (Ald. and Mrs. Askwith) visited the various schools and in the course of a few happy remarks expressed the wish, that in the coming year there would be a great revival of trade in the town and employment for every one.

That the treat was greatly appreciated by the participants, young and old, was evidenced by the hearty and cheery spirit that prevailed amongst those assembled.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE BOROUGH.

- (1). The provision of more houses.
- (2). A more rapid installation of the Water Carriage System.
- (3). The selection of a site, &c. for the erection of a Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
- (4). Sanitary and Road Improvements in the Colliery districts.
- (5). Improved method of disposal of the Town's Refuse.

In concluding my report, I wish to tender my best thanks to you, Sir, as Chairman, and Members of the Health Committee, and all the Officials for the valuable assistance and co-operation given me in the many matters appertaining to the Health of the Borough during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES M. MacLACHLAN, M.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH VISITORS' REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

In presenting our Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1923, we beg to state that during the year, the births notified as having occurred in your area, Number 830, comprised of:

Males 401 ; Females 429.

The total number of still-births were 28.

Number of Births registered	...	844
Number of Births notified	...	830
Number of Births (not notified)	..	14
Number of Infants visited (first visit)	...	830
Re-visits	..	4434
Visits (age 1 to 5yrs.)	...	2175
Total number of visits made during the year		6610

Table of Statistics of visits paid to children during the year :—

District.	Under 1 year.	1-5 years.
Blyth	3361	1211
Bebside	226	271
Cowpen Colliery	35	18
Newsham	242	134
New Delaval	259	132
Cowpen	116	212
Isabella Colliery	195	197
Totals ..	4434	2175

In 703 cases, the infants were found to be breast fed.

In 52 cases, part breast and part artificial food.

In 47 cases, wholly artificially fed.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—17 cases of this disease were notified, and 112 visits paid to them. The whole of the cases with one exception making a good recovery.

Welfare Centre.—The Centre is held at Wellington House on Tuesdays between 2 and 4 p.m. The Centre was open 49 times during the year.

The total attendance for the year was 1035, or an average weekly attendance of 21, as against an average weekly attendance of 11 in 1922. This number shows a big increase, and may be taken as a good indication of the high estimation in which the Centre is held by those for whose special benefit it was opened.

The work is conducted by the two Health Visitors, and the M.O.H. is in attendance.

On 27th November, Miss Colles, Health Inspector from the Ministry of Health visited the Centre, and made a thorough examination of the work done. She was particularly struck with the increased attendances of mothers and babies, and with the comfortable accommodation provided at the Centre. Much good is done by the daily visits to the homes, and the advice given to the mothers, as to the feeding, &c. of the infants, is diligently carried out.

Baby Foods to the value of £49 7s. 2d. have been supplied in needy cases either gratis or cost price according to the parent's circumstances, a service which has been much appreciated.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

A. A. HOGARTH,
R. M. FINLAY,

Health Visitors.

Table X.—Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1923.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1923, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1922. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH- RATE PER 1000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1000 Population.										RATE PER 1000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS	
		All Causes	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Causes of Death certified by Registered Practitioners.	Un- certified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales	19.7	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.14	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.44	7.7	69	92.0	6.9	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	20.4	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.03	0.12	0.09	0.22	0.40	9.9	72	92.2	7.2	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000)	19.8	10.6	00.1	—	0.19	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.21	0.38	6.4	69	92.6	6.1	
London	20.2	11.2	00.1	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.13	0.17	0.45	10.2	60	90.8	9.1	

Table III.—Deaths registered during the Calendar
Year 1923 in

BLYTH BOROUGH.

(CIVILIANS ONLY).

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Males.	Females
All Causes	...	...	..	214	206
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	8	13
Scarlet Fever	...	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	..	5	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	3	3
Eucephalitis Le'hargica	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	14	21
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	4	6
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	9	18
Rheumatic Fever	..	...	...	2	3
Diabetis	...	...	...	1	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	8	7
Heart disease	..	...	...	16	16
Arterio-sclerosis	...	..	...	5	3
Bronchitis	...	..	...	13	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	24	21
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	4	3
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	2	..
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	3	5
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	..	..	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	..	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	9	6
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	..	...
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Debility and malformation...	...	...	...	...	...
premature birth	...	...	...	18	22
Suicide	...	...	..	1	1
Other Deaths from violence	...	...	...	20	4
Other defined diseases	..	...	...	43	34
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	2
Spec'l Causes (included above) Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of infants under 1 year	...	...	...	46	41
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	4
Total Births	...	...	...	421	444
Legitimate	...	...	...	412	421
Illegitimate	...	...	..	9	23
Population }					32,950

Borough of Blyth.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

To Alderman Neale (Chairman) and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

The cleansing of the ashpits, pail closets and ashbins has been performed at regular intervals. Ashpits have had attention at 14 days' intervals. Pail closets and ashbins twice weekly. The general ashpit scavenging has been done night shift; pail closets and dry pans during the daytime. 18 horses and carts and one 1-ton motor waggon are regularly engaged upon the work. The total quantity of refuse collected aggregates 31,625 loads. This is 1136 more than the previous twelve months.

The refuse has been disposed of as follows—Quarry, 8844 loads; Blyth Brickyard, 3937 loads; agricultural land, 15857 loads; Albion Brickyard, 993 loads; Bebside Furnace Banks, 823 loads; other tips, 1171 loads. Approximately one half of the refuse has been tipped on agricultural land.

Dairies and Cow Sheds.

There are 15 registered cowkeepers in the Borough, the total number of cows kept being 128. Approximately 700 gallons of milk is imported daily and distributed by milk purveyors.

Infectious Diseases.

All cases of infectious diseases have had disinfectants supplied, and each house has been visited. Hospital cases have been removed under my personal care. Disinfection of the infected houses has been carried out immediately after removal to hospital or the recovery of the patient.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 16 licensed slaughter houses in the Borough, 10 of which are owned by the Corporation, 4 of which are let on a joint tenancy. The scavenging is carried out by the Corporation cleansing staff. The refuse is removed twice weekly.

Privy Conversions and Sanitary Improvements.

There has been a gratifying increase in the number of privy conversions during the past twelve months, the total number of privies abolished and water closets substituted being 169. 86 of these have have been carried out in the town area, 7 at Bebside Colliery, and 76 at Cowpen Isabella Colliery. The improvements which the Cowpen Coal Company are carrying out at Isabella Colliery are of a very comprehensive nature. Separate paved yards, drains, water supply and water closets have been provided at the East and Middle Rows—76 houses; separate yards, drains and water supplying at the New Row, which comprises 41 houses, have also been carried out. New roads and tar mac have been laid throughout the village. The conversion of the privies and re-making the roads, &c., at the West Row is now in progress. When the whole of the works are carried out Isabella Colliery will be looked upon as being the most sanitary colliery village in the county.

Common Lodging Houses.

I have visited and inspected the four registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough at regular intervals. They have been kept in a satisfactory state of order and cleanliness. The health of the lodgers has been good through the year.

Housing.

The demand for suitable working class dwelling houses remains as acute as it was last year. The final 220 houses on the Housing Scheme has been completed. 8 new houses have been erected by private enterprise.

The Cowpen Coal Company have remodelled the yards, sanitary conveniences and streets at the Cowpen Isabella Colliery.

The Seaton Delaval Coal Company have commenced with the remodelling of their houses at New Delaval. A start has been made at the South Row, which comprises 71 houses. Each house is to have a new back kitchen and food store added, new water closet and coal house. New drains, back street, and separate water supply to each house form part of the improvement scheme. The general necessary repairs are receiving attention as the work proceeds.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 153 factories and workshops on the Factories and Workshops Register. These are comprised as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	16
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	16
Tailors, &c.	...	...	...	10
Builders and Joiners	...	...	...	27
Printers	...	...	...	5
Engineers and Blacksmiths	...	..	...	16
Plumbers and Gasfitters	...	...	...	11
Boot and Shoe Repairers	...	...	...	11
Painters and Decorators	...	...	...	8
Motor and Cycle Works	...	...	...	10
Picture Framers and Gilders	...	...	...	3
Saddlers	...	...	...	2
Laundries	...	...	...	2
Sugar Boilers	...	...	...	2
Shirt and Hosiery Makers	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Trades	...	...	...	11
				513

TABLE I SCAVENGING ASHPITS, SHOP REFUSE, &c.
 Total Quantity 32041 loads Total Cost £8500.

Quantity per house 7294 Houses 4.39 loads	Population 32950 Quantity per Head .97 load.	
Cost per House £1 3s. 3½d.	Cost per load 5s. 3½d.	Cost per Head 5s 1¾d.

TABLE II. PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

Privy Pail Closets abolished ...	...	...	...	12
Privy's abolished ..	...	...	...	157
			—	169
Water Closets substituted ...	...	...	...	169

TABLE III. WATER SUPPLY.

Separate fitted supplies provided ...	...	...	...	145
No. of Houses affected ...	...	...	...	145

Borough of Blyth.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910. (Act V).
Statistics for the year ended December 31st, 1923.

	Total for whole District	Remarks
No. of dwelling houses inspected and recorded ..	55	
No. of do. found to be unfit ...	45	
Complaints (a) by householders that houses were unfit ...	45	
(b) by parish councils ...		
Closing (a) No. of representations to L. A.	4	
Orders (b) „ „ orders made .	Nil.	
(c) „ „ determined after works completed ...	Nil.	
No. of houses Voluntarily closed .—		Owners anxious to close houses. No alternative accommodation availab'le.
(a) after notice under Sec. 28, 1919 .	Nil.	
(b) without notice	Nil.	
No. of houses demolished —		
(a) under demolition orders ..	Nil.	
(b) voluntarily by owners ...	Nil.	
No. of houses made fit for habitation : —	Nil.	
(a) after informal notice ..	Nil.	
(b) after service of notice under Sec. 28, 1919	Nil.	
(c) after closing order had been made ..	Nil.	
(d) by Local Authority in default of owner ..	Nil.	

General character of defects found

Housing Act, 1890.		
(a) No. of representations of obstructive buildings	Nil.	
(b) No. of such bulldings demolished ...	Nil.	
(c) Representations as to unhealthy areas (Parts 1 and 2) ...	Nil.	

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN FAWCETT.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, (Sanitary Officers Order, 1922, Art. 19 (12)).

[illegible]



